

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-04 EUR-08 DRC-01 /062 W

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P 170910Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2976

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0832

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: ERITREA - FALSE ALLEGATIONS OF FIGHTING BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN
FORCES AND INSURGENTS

REF ASMARA 829

1. CONGEN INFORMED THAT UPI CARRYING STORY ACCORDING TO
WHICH ALLEGED FIGHTING BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT FORCES
AND INSURGENTS ESCALATING TO INCLUDE USE OF JETS, AND REINFORCE-
MENT OF 2ND DIV BY 3 BATTALIONS.

2. ACCORDING ASSISTANT G-3 OF 2ND DIV, ALLEGATIONS TOTALLY
FALSE. DIVISION NOT RPT NOT ENGAGED IN ANY COMBAT OPERATIONS,
AND HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN REINFORCED. AIR FORCE OFFICER ALSO
RECONFIRMED INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTTEL, TO EFFECT THAT AIR
FORCE DID ENGAGE IN SOME RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER AREA WHERE
INSURGENTS FIGHTING, BUT HAVE NOT RPT NOT ENGAGED IN COMBAT.

3. FIGHTING EVIDENTLY STILL GOING ON, AT LEAST SPORADICALLY,
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BETWEEN ELF AND PLF IN AREA NORTH OF ASMARA. ALL AVAILABLE LOCAL

SOURCES CONFIRM STATEMENTS MADE BY MILITARY THAT LATTER NOT,
RPT NOT, ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS AGAINST INSURGENTS. LOGIC SUGGESTS,
IN ANY EVENT, IT VERY MUCH IN INTEREST OF GOVERNMENT
FORCES TO ALLOW INSURGENTS TO WEAKEN THEMSELVES AS MUCH AS POS-
SIBLE BY INTERNECINE STRIFE.

4. CONGEN UNABLE ACCOUNT FOR PROLIFERATION PRESS REPORTS ON
ALLEGED FIGHTING BETWEEN GOVERNMENT FORCES AND INSURGENTS IN
ERITREA, BUT URGE ALL SUCH REPORTS BE TREATED WITH CAUTION.
SHERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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